

HOW LONG CAN YOU RECEIVE BENEFITS?

Generally, you can receive benefits until your *eligibility* period ends or you use all your *entitlement*, whichever comes first. (We use the term *entitlement* to refer to the number of months of benefits you may receive.) We'll discuss separately your eligibility period and the amount of entitlement you can earn.

How Long Are You Eligible?

If you stay in the Selected Reserve, you can generally be eligible:

- for 10 years from the date you became eligible if you became eligible before October 1, 1992 or,
- for 14 years from the date you became eligible if you became eligible on or after October 1, 1992.



If you stay in the Selected Reserve, VA can generally extend your 14-year (or 10-year, if applicable) period if:

- Your eligibility expired during a period of your enrollment in training. We can generally extend your eligibility to the end of a term, quarter, or semester. If the school doesn't operate on a term basis, we can generally extend your eligibility for 12 weeks.
- You couldn't train due to a disability caused by Selected Reserve service. In this case, you must apply for the extension within one year after:
 - your eligibility ended or
 - your disability prevented you from pursuing the training program, whichever is later.
- You were called up to active duty under title 10, U.S. Code (federal authority). In this case, we'll extend your eligibility by the period of your active duty plus four months. You receive a separate extension for each call-up. The law doesn't permit us to extend your eligibility for call-ups under title 32, U.S. Code (State authority). This extension would be given regardless of whether or not you stayed in the Selected Reserves.

If you leave the Selected Reserve, generally your benefits end the day you separate.

Exceptions: If you leave the Selected Reserve, and you meet the following requirements, you can generally still be eligible for a full 10 years from the date you became eligible (if you became eligible before October 1, 1992), or a full 14 years from the date you became eligible (if you became eligible on or after October 1, 1992):

- You were separated because you had a disability that wasn't caused by misconduct, or
- Your unit was inactivated or you were otherwise involuntarily separated during the period from October 1, 1991, through December 31, 2001.
- If you were called up to active duty under title 10, U.S. Code (federal authority) and you leave the Selected Reserve, you may be eligible for an extension for the time you were called up plus 4 months. This extension would begin the date you left the Selected Reserves.
 - **Example:** If you left the Selected Reserves on December 31, 2006, after completing seven years and during that seven years you were called up under title 10, U.S. Code (federal authority) from May 1, 2006, through October 31, 2006, for six months, you may be eligible for an extension of 10 months. The ten month period would begin January 1, 2007.

For more information on how call-ups to active duty affect your VA education benefits, check www.gibill.va.gov. Click on *Questions and Answers* and search for *Call-ups*.